

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

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ORGANIZATION (if any): Cornell University

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO.
QUAD
SERIES
NEG. NO.

DATE: Fall, 1993
TELEPHONE: (607)255-4331

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S):
- 2. COUNTY: Steuben TOWN/CITY: Corning VILLAGE:
- 3. STREET LOCATION: 160 East Fourth Street
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [] b. private [X]
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: Martyn N. & Laura J. Easton ADDRESS: Same as above
- 6. USE: Original: single-family residence Present: single-family residence
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road Yes[X] No []
Interior accessible: Yes [] No [X] Explain: Private Residence

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard[X] b. stone [] c. brick [] d. board & batten []
e. cobblestone [] f. shingles [] g. stucco [] other:
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints []
b. wood frame with light members[X]
c. masonry load bearing walls []
d. metal (explain)
e. other
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent[X] b. good [] c. fair [] d. deteriorated []
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site[X] b. moved [] if so, when?
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
See Continuation Sheet
- 12. PHOTO:
- 13. MAP:

14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known[X] b. zoning[] c. roads[]
d. developers[] e. deterioration[]
f. other:

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY: a. barn[] b. carriage house[] c. garage[X]
d. privy[] e. shed[] f. greenhouse[]
g. shop[] h. gardens[]
i. landscape features: See Continuation Sheet
j. other:

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING: (Check more than one if necessary)
a. open land[] b. woodland[]
c. scattered buildings[X]
d. densely built-up[] e. commercial[]
f. industrial[] g. residential[]
h. other:

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDINGS AND SURROUNDINGS:

See Continuation Sheet

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:
(Including interior features if known):

See Continuation Sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1883

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER:

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Continuation Sheet

21. SOURCES:

See Continuation Sheet

22. THEME:

11c. MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND DATES:

The only notable alteration to the structure and site since its original construction was the addition of a garage at the southern edge of the site, adjacent to the alley, sometime between 1913 and 1921.

15i. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

The sidewalk across the north edge of the property is constructed of brick. This is one of the few remaining examples of this sidewalk paving material, predating the current concrete sidewalk that is used for the rest of the area.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

The houses on the south side of East Fourth Street are elevated on a 10 foot bluff overlooking the street. This structure is situated on that bluff. The structure is consistent with its neighbors in size and setback but is noteworthy east-to-west spacing. The separation between this structure and its neighbor to the east is narrower than is common for this block.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE:

This two-story structure can be called a hipped cottage designed in the Italianate Style of architecture. It has a low-pitched pyramidal hipped roof, and employs an ell-plan. This house exhibits many of the identifying characteristics of the Italianate Style as presented in the McAlesters' book *A Field Guide to American Houses*. These include two stories; low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves having decorative brackets beneath; full-width porch; paired doors; and tall, narrow windows.

The front porch extends across the entire front (north) facade, and the north half of the east facade. It is decorated with ornate brackets normally associated with this style. The porch has a closed rail sided with shingles. A highly decorated hood surrounds the paired main entrance on the north facade. Each of the doors have a rounded-top window over a single decorative panel. The window has stained glass quarrels with lead caning. There is a secondary entrance from the porch found on the east facade, also highly decorated. The original two-over-two sash have been replaced with one-over-one sash.

The house sits on an coursed fieldstone foundation. The hipped roof is covered by asphalt shingles. The garage at the rear of the site uses dropsiding, and has a front-gabled tin roof. The garage rests on a poured concrete foundation. The garage shows no signs of alteration in materials or form since its original construction.

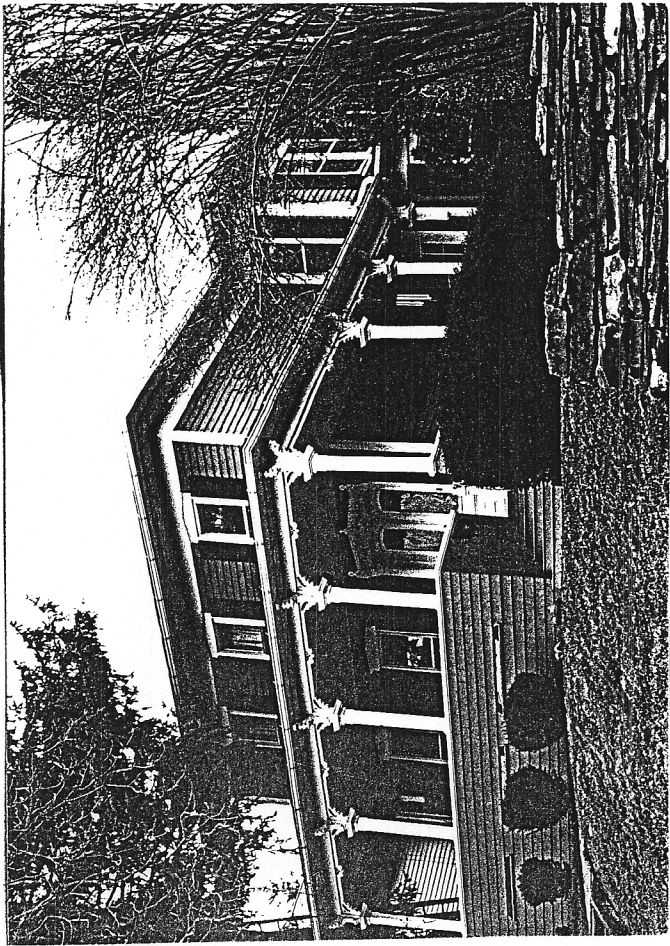
20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

This house is constructed on Lot #2 of Block 38, as laid out in the 1855 Brewer and Canfield map of Corning. The house was constructed by Alexander Pfeiffer, a machinist, in 1883. In 1893, Alexander moved from the house to a new house at 15 East First Street. The son, Frederick F. Pfeiffer (b. July, 1868) continued to live in the Fourth Street house. Also living in the house was Frederick's wife Barbara, his son and his two daughters. Frederick was employed as a clerk until 1893. After this time, he was a bookkeeper; first for the Fall Brook Railroad (1903-1905), later for Corning Glass Works. It is possible that Harry Wright, a glasscutter boarding in the Pfeiffer home from 1903 to 1905 assisted Frederick Pfeiffer to attain his new job with the glass works.

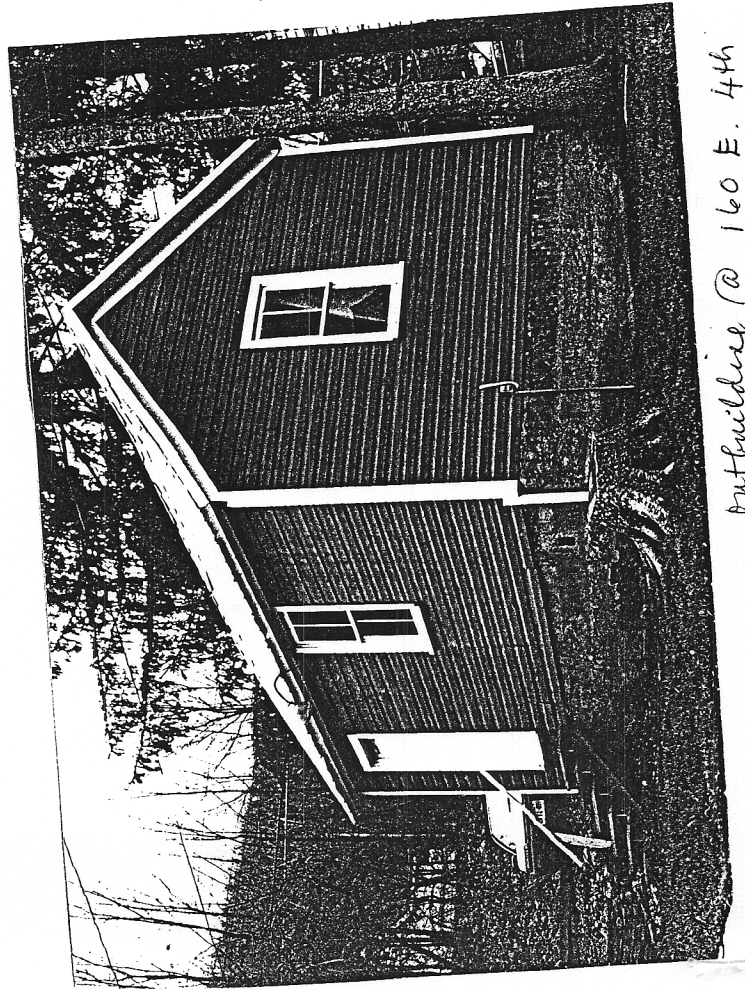
21. SOURCES:

- McAlester, V. and L. 1991. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- City of Corning Building Permits, City Engineer's Office, Corning, New York.
- Corning City Directories, Boyd's 1874-75; Robert's 1891; Hanford 1893-1950.
- Map of Corning*. 1855. Buffalo: H. Brewer and C.A. Canfield.
- View of Corning, New York, Looking Toward the South*. 1882. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Publishing House, C.J. Corbin, Field Manager.
- City of Corning*. 1893. Corning: Harry C. Heermans, City Engineer.
- Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Maps of Corning, New York*, (1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1921, 1930, and 1948).
- Steuben County Deed Records, Steuben County Clerk's Office, Bath, New York.
- Steuben County Tax Records, Steuben County Records Center, Bath, New York. (1860-1909)
- United States Bureau of the Census. 1910 Census Data for Corning City, New York.

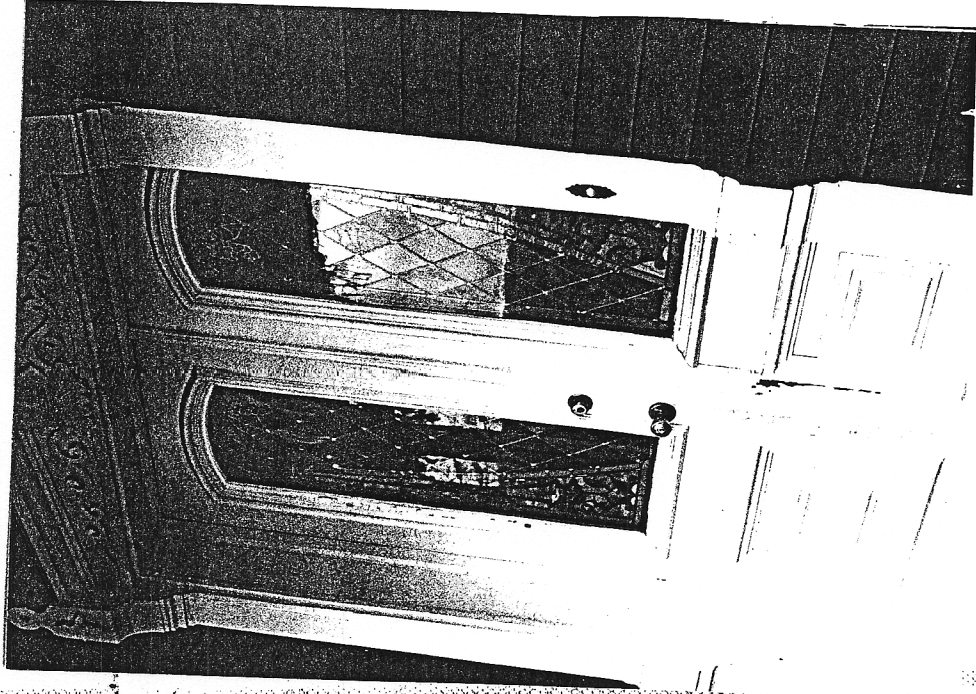
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS: (To be attached later)



160 E. 4th



outbuilding @ 160 E. 4th



detail of 160 E. 4th